

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A gear pump comprising a pump cover, an internal rotor disposed rotatably in a recess of the pump cover and formed in a rotationally fixed manner on a drivable plug-in shaft, and an external rotor rotatably disposed in the recess of the pump cover in such an eccentric manner relative to the axis of rotation (A) of the internal rotor that the external rotor is in mesh with the internal rotor only in a first angle-of-rotation range ( $\alpha$ ) and in a second angle-of-rotation range ( $\beta$ ) lying opposite the first angle-of-rotation range ( $\alpha$ ) is in contact with an inner surface of a web, which is disposed in the recess and is in turn in contact at its outer surface with the external rotor, so that after closing of the recess by a cover plate there is formed in the recess an admission pressure chamber and a low-pressure chamber, wherein a holding element, which is held in the pump cover, in the initial assembled state of the gear pump holds the cover plate at a fixed angle of rotation on the pump cover;

said holding element being held in a first recess formed in the pump cover and in the initial assembled state of the gear pump holding the cover plate by a second recess formed in the cover plate at a fixed angle of rotation on the pump cover;

said holding element comprising a cylindrical partial body having outside diameter which is slightly larger than the inside diameter of the first recess, so that during the course of insertion of the holding element into the first recess, the cylindrical partial body is imparted a specific radial bias causing a force-locking connection between the holding element and the pump cover; and

said cylindrical partial body of the holding element for receiving a screw having an inner bore with an inside diameter which approximately corresponds to the outside diameter of the screw.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented). The gear pump according to claim 1,

wherein the cover plate in the final assembled state of the gear pump is released by the holding element.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). The gear pump according to claim [[3]] 1,

wherein the holding element in the final assembled state of the gear pump is displaced in the first recess to such an extent that the cover plate is no longer held by the holding element.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented). The gear pump according to claim 1,

wherein the holding element is made of a deformable plastics material.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The gear pump according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1,

wherein the surface of the cylindrical partial body of the holding element has scales.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). The gear pump according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1,

wherein adjoining the cylindrical partial body is a conical partial body, which is passed through the second recess and in the final assembled state of the pump cover is in contact by its outer surface with the second recess of the cover plate in such a way that by means of the holding element a positive connection is realized between the pump cover and the cover plate.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). The gear pump according to claim [[8]] 1,

wherein a portion of an inner bore, which is situated in the conical partial body in a continuation of an inner bore portion situated in the cylindrical partial body and the diameter of which is designed smaller than the diameter of the inner bore portion situated in the cylindrical partial body, is used to ventilate the first recess of the pump cover.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented). The gear pump according to claim 9,

wherein the conical partial body in its area has an annular recess, the annular area of which tapers with increasing recess depth in such a way that up to the height of the base of the annular recess there are formed in the centre of the conical partial body a cylindrical bottom partial body and at the periphery of the conical partial body a hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body of a constant wall thickness.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented). The gear pump according to claim 11,

wherein the conical partial body owing to the annular recess is deformable in such a way that it is introducible by its hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body entirely into the first recess in the final assembled state of the gear pump.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented). The gear pump according to claim 11,

wherein the cylindrical bottom partial body is lengthened compared to the area of the conical partial body by the thickness of the cover plate, so that in the final assembled state of the gear pump the hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body is introduced entirely into the first recess and there is therefore no longer any contact with the cover plate.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented). The gear pump according to claim 11,

wherein the hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body is adjoined by a hollow-cylindrical bottom partial body, the height of which corresponds to the thickness of the cover plate, so that in the final assembled state of the gear pump the hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body is introduced entirely into the first recess and there is therefore no longer any contact with the cover plate.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented). The gear pump according to claim 1,

wherein the web in the recess of the pump cover is sickle-shaped.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented). The gear pump according to claim 1,

wherein in the final assembled state of the gear pump the pump cover with the cover plate at a fixed angle of rotation is fastened by means of screw connections to a connection plate of a hydraulic pump.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented). The gear pump according to claim 16,

wherein the admission pressure chamber is connected by kidney-shaped recesses in the cover plate and the connection plate to an intake channel of the hydraulic pump and the low-pressure chamber is connected by kidney-shaped recesses in the cover plate and the connection plate to a hydraulic tank.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented). The gear pump according to claim 16,

wherein the plug-in shaft is rotatably mounted in a first plain bearing in the pump cover and in a second plain bearing in the connection plate.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented). The gear pump according to claim 1,

wherein the internal rotor is fastened by a clamping key, which engages into a keyway of the internal rotor, in a rotationally fixed manner to the plug-in shaft.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented). The gear pump according to claim 1,

wherein the plug-in shaft in the final assembled state of the gear pump is fixed in its axial position by means of a round ring, which is fitted on the plug-in shaft at the level of the cover plate.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) A holding element comprising a cylindrical partial body, which is introducible into a recess of a first article with a simultaneous build-up of a radial bias in such a way that a force-locking connection is established between the holding element and the first article, and a conical partial body, which adjoins the cylindrical partial body and in an initial assembled state is passed through a recess of a second article and is in contact with the recess of the second article in such a way that by means of the holding element a positive connection is realized between the first article and the second article, said cylindrical bottom partial body being lengthened compared to the area of the conical partial body by the thickness of the second article, so that the second assembled state the hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body is inserted entirely into the recess of the first article and there is therefore no longer any contact with the second article.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented). The holding element according to claim 21,

wherein the surface of the cylindrical partial body of the holding element has scales.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented). The holding element according to claim 21,

wherein the cylindrical partial body of the holding element for receiving a screw has an inner bore, the inside diameter of which approximately corresponds to the outside diameter of the screw.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented). The holding element according to claim 21,

wherein an inner bore portion, which is situated in the conical partial body in continuation of an inner bore portion situated in the cylindrical partial body and the diameter of which is designed smaller than the diameter of the inner bore portion situated in the cylindrical partial body, is used to ventilate the recess of the first article.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented). The holding element according to claim 21,

wherein the conical partial body in its area has an annular recess, the annular area of which tapers with increasing recess depth in such a way that up to the height of the base of the annular recess there are formed in the center of the conical partial body a cylindrical bottom partial body and at the periphery of the conical partial body a hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body of a constant wall thickness.



Claim 26 (Previously Presented). The holding element according to claim 25,

wherein the conical partial body owing to the annular recess is deformable in such a way that in a second assembled state it is introducible by its hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body entirely into the recess of the first article.

Claim 27 (Cancelled).

Claim 28 (Previously Presented). The holding element according to claim 25,

wherein the hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body is adjoined by a hollow-cylindrical bottom partial body, the height of which corresponds to the thickness of the second article, so that in the final assembled state of the first and second article the hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body is inserted entirely into the recess of the first article and there is therefore no longer any contact with the second article.

Claim 29 (New). A holding element comprising a cylindrical partial body, which is introducible into a recess of a first article with a simultaneous build-up of a radial bias in such a way that a force-locking connection is established between the holding element and the first article, and a conical partial body, which adjoins the cylindrical partial body and in an initial assembled state is passed through a recess of a second article and is in contact with the recess of the second article in such a way that by means of the holding element a positive connection is realized between the first article and the second article,

the conical partial body in its area having an annular recess, the annular area of which tapers with increasing recess depth in such a way that up to the height of the base of the annular recess there are formed in the center of the conical partial body a cylindrical bottom partial body and at the periphery of the conical partial body, a hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body of a constant wall thickness, and the hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body being adjoined by a hollow-cylindrical bottom partial body, the height of which corresponds to the thickness of the second article, so that in the final assembled state of the first and second article the hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body is inserted entirely into the recess of the first article and there is therefore no longer any contact with the second article.

Claim 30 (New). The holding element according to claim 29,

wherein the surface of the cylindrical partial body of the holding element has scales.

Claim 31 (New). The holding element according to claim 29,

wherein the cylindrical partial body of the holding element for receiving a screw has an inner bore, the inside diameter of which approximately corresponds to the outside diameter of the screw.

Claim 32 (New). The holding element according to claim 29,

wherein an inner bore portion, which is situated in the conical partial body in continuation of an inner bore portion situated in the cylindrical partial body and the diameter of which is designed smaller than the diameter of the inner bore portion situated in the cylindrical partial body, is used to ventilate the recess of the first article.

Claim 33 (New). The holding element according to claim 29,

wherein the conical partial body owing to the annular recess is deformable in such a way that in a second assembled state it is introducible by its hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body entirely into the recess of the first article.

Claim 34 (New). The holding element according to claim 29,

wherein the hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body is adjoined by a hollow-cylindrical bottom partial body, the height of which corresponds to the thickness of the second article, so that in the final assembled state of the first and second article the hollow-cone-shaped bottom partial body is inserted entirely into the recess of the first article and there is therefore no longer any contact with the second article.